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Ebenezer Evangelical and Reformed Church  
Gerald vicinity  
Franklin County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1749

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EBENEZER EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

HABS No. MO-1749

Location: Gerald vicinity, Franklin County, Missouri

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The following information was recorded by Alexander Piaget and Charles van Ravenswaay at the time the photograph was taken:

Built 1863-1865, plans prepared and given to contractor Henry Wesel. Twelve local men, all or most of them farmers, organized the congregation on June 12, 1854. During the same year they built a hewn log church, later clapboarded, which is still standing and is used as a school. In 1863, Wesel was given a contract to build a new stone church at a cost of \$450.00. The church was completed and dedicated on September 10, 1865. In 1868 a second-hand steeple bell was bought at Holstein, Warren County, and installed. Cracks appeared in the walls in 1868 and four tie rods were inserted. The church bell cracked in 1881 and was recast by the Stuckstedte Co. in St. Louis who added sufficient metal to make an 800 pound bell. An organ was installed in 1887. In 1901, the church was repaired and redecorated. The stone steeple was not included in the original plans, but the decision to add it was made on July 10, 1863, after construction had begun.

The walls are of soft local limestone and laid in coursed rubble. The interior has been redecorated several times during this century, presently plastered with painted decoration. The high pulpit has been removed. Pews originally arranged to permit only two aisles. Later (20th century) the pews were shortened to permit three aisles. The church has a corrugated metal roof and is heated by a furnace, though originally stoves were used.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

In God's Service, 1854-1954, Ebenezer Evangelical and Reformed Church, (N.A., N.P., 1954).

PROJECT INFORMATION

The Piaget-van Ravenswaay Survey consists of a number of photographs, primarily of sites and structures in Missouri, which were taken before 1938 by Alexander Piaget and after that by Paul Piaget, both in conjunction with Charles van Ravenswaay. Photographs of buildings were incorporated into the HABS collection in 1985 by Laura Rupp, HABS historian. A master list is available in the ~~records~~ records for MO-1800.